

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1 (currently amended):       An image verification apparatus comprising:

        a verification unit which verifies whether a digital image included in an image file has been altered; and

        a ~~display-form-change control~~ unit which changes a display form of additional information included in the image file if said verification unit verifies that the digital image has been altered,

        wherein said ~~display-form-change control~~ unit avoids displaying the additional information if said verification unit verifies that the digital image has been altered, and

        wherein the additional information includes a ~~thumbnail~~ thumbnail image of the digital image.

2 (canceled).

3 (currently amended):       The image verification apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said ~~display-form-change control~~ unit displays information indicating that the digital image has been altered, if said verification unit verifies that the digital image has been altered.

4 (previously presented):     The image verification apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the additional information includes information relating to the image file.

5 (previously presented):     The image verification apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the additional information includes information relating to an apparatus which generates the image file.

6 (previously presented): The image verification apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said verification unit verifies whether the digital image has been altered, using a common key of common key cryptography.

7 (previously presented): The image verification apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said verification unit verifies whether the digital image has been altered, using a public key of public key cryptography.

8 (currently amended): A method of displaying additional information included in an image file, ~~[[said]]~~ the method comprising the steps of:

verifying whether a digital image included in the image file has been altered;  
changing a display form of the additional information included in the image file, if it is verified in said verifying step that the digital image has been altered; and

avoiding displaying the additional information if it is verified in said verifying step that the digital image has been altered,

~~wherein~~ wherein the additional information includes a thumbnail image of the digital image.

9 (canceled).

10 (previously presented) The method according to claim 8, further comprising the step of:  
displaying information indicating that the digital image has been altered, if it is verified in said verifying step that the digital image has been altered.

11 (previously presented): The method according to claim 8, wherein the additional information includes information relating to the image file.

12 (previously presented): The method according to claim 8, wherein the additional information includes information relating to an apparatus which generates the image file.

13 (previously presented): The method according to claim 8, wherein a common key of common key cryptography is used in said verifying step to verify whether the digital image has been altered.

14 (previously presented): The method according to claim 8, wherein a public key of public key cryptography is used in said verifying step to verify whether the digital image has been altered.

15-18 (canceled).

19 (previously presented): The image verification apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the additional information does not include a file name of the image file.

20 (previously presented): The method according to claim 8, wherein the additional information does not include a file name of the image file.

21 (currently amended): A computer-readable medium that stores a program causing a computer to perform a method of displaying additional information included in an image file, the method comprising the steps of:

verifying whether a digital image included in the image file has been altered; [[and]]

changing a display form of the additional information included in the image file, if it is verified in said verifying step that the digital image has been altered; and

avoiding displaying the additional information if it is verified in said verifying step that the digital image has been altered,

wherein the additional information includes a thumbnail image of the digital image.

22 (previously presented): The computer-readable medium according to claim 21, the method further comprising the step of:

displaying information indicating that the digital image has been altered, if it is verified in said verifying step that the digital image has been altered.

23 (previously presented): The computer-readable medium according to claim 21, wherein the additional information includes information relating to the image file.

24 (previously presented): The computer-readable medium according to claim 21, wherein the additional information includes information relating to an apparatus which generates the image file.

25 (previously presented): The computer-readable medium according to claim 21, wherein a common key of common key cryptography is used in said verifying step to verify whether the digital image has been altered.

26 (previously presented): The computer-readable medium according to claim 21, wherein a public key of public key cryptography is used in said verifying step to verify whether the digital image has been altered.

27 (previously presented): The computer-readable medium according to claim 21, wherein the additional information does not include a file name of the image file.